

**35.12 Veterans counseling program.**

1. The department shall coordinate with United States department of veterans affairs hospitals, health care facilities, and clinics in this state and the department of public health to provide assistance to veterans and their families to reduce the incidence of alcohol and chemical dependency and suicide among veterans and to make mental health counseling available to veterans.

2. The assistance program shall include but not be limited to the following:

a. Public education and awareness programs for veterans, health care professionals, and the public, relative to the needs of veterans.

b. Referral services to identify appropriate counseling and treatment programs for veterans in need of services.

3. Any assistance program established pursuant to this section shall be implemented in a manner that does not duplicate other services readily available to veterans.

2007 Acts, ch 202, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 26, §3